

3, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1954

A. F. BLAKESLEE, NOTED SCIENTIST

Botanist, Geneticist, Head of
Smith College Experiment
Station 12 Years, Is Dead

Special to The New York Times.

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Nov. 16—Dr. Albert Francis Blakeslee, internationally noted botanist and geneticist and Visiting Professor of Botany and director of the Smith College Genetics Experiment Station since 1942, died today in Dickinson Hospital at the age of 80.

Dr. Blakeslee, who was born in Geneseo, N. Y., received an A. B. degree from Wesleyan in 1898, an M. A. in 1900, and a Ph. D. in 1904 from Harvard. He also had received many honorary degrees, from the New York Academy of Sciences, Palais de la Decouvert and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Some of Dr. Blakeslee's best-known research concerned the changing of chromosome arrangement in various flower seeds by the use of a chemical, colchicine, thus producing flowers of unusual size or other characteristics. Such research made possible the commercial sale today of seeds producing giant-sized strains of well-known flowers.

He also did research and made discoveries in the field of sexuality in the common bread mold. His other important genetic research concerned mutation in the Jimson weed, embryo cultures and hybrids and studies in the inheritance of taste and smell.

Dr. Blakeslee was an honorary fellow of the National Institute of Science of India; a fellow and, in 1940, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the American Philosophical Society, the Botanical Society of America, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Society of Naturalists, the New England Botanical Club and the National Institute of Social Science.

His brother was the late George H. Blakeslee of Worcester, authority on international relations and the Far East. His wife, Margaret Bridges Blakeslee, died in 1947.

He is survived by a sister, Miss Theodora L. Blakeslee of Burbank, Calif.

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